

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

May 11, 2015

www.op97.org

Important Dates

Robert Crown Center field trip - May 13

Transition Picnic- May 15

Memorial Day - No School - May 25

Shakespeare Performances - Week of May 26

Book Swap - June 2

5th Grade Completion Ceremony - June 4

Olympic Day - June 5

News

Robert Crown Center for Health Education Field Trip

On May 13, 5th graders will travel to the Robert Crown Center for Health Education in Hinsdale for an informative session on puberty. While there, boys and girls will attend separate sessions to learn about the physical and emotional changes their bodies will be going through. The cost of the field trip is \$14. Signed permission slips are due Friday, May 8.

Brooks Feeder School Transition Picnic

This year's transition picnic will be on Friday, May 15. Fifth Grade students from Holmes, Hatch, Whittier and Lincoln will gather together at Taylor Park to participate in a variety of Olympic Day-style activities. It is a great opportunity to meet other students who will be attending Brooks Middle School next year. The cost for this activity is \$2. Permission slips will be sent out later this week.

We still need parent volunteers for the picnic. If you can help out, please [click here](#) and complete the volunteer form.

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Typing Training from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Typing Training program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is:
<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) and Twitter @HolmesArt97. We are now working on comic strips. Students will be writing and illustrating a non-fiction, autobiographical, six-panel comic strip. It can be about something funny that happened to them, or something they are proud of. This week we are drawing our final copy and will begin inking the strips.

Music - <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> Third trimester is upon us! You should have received a pink letter with information on the assessments for 3rd trimester as well as the music for the recorder assessment. The music for the recorder assessment is also on the [fifth grade website](#). There is a video on the website as well. I was absent for the help session last week so there will be a make up help session on Tuesday 5/12. Also, I will delay **the due date of the recorder assessment till 5/18 to make up for my absences.** All other assessments will be done during class time.

Chorus - Congratulation on a wonderful District 97 Choral Festival! I hope you all enjoyed it as much I did. We still at least one more performance this year. On May 18 (tentative date) the chorus will perform with gold belt and a few other performance ensembles in a school assembly. On May 26th we will have a performance at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (to be confirmed by Wednesday)

Gold Belt is working on Canon in D featuring soprano, alto, tenor, and bass recorders as well as other pieces for our spring concert. On May 18 (tentative date) the chorus will perform with gold belt and a few other performance ensembles in a school assembly. On May 26th we will have a performance at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (to be confirmed by Wednesday)

Spanish - Fifth grade switched groups last week. They are currently working on review communicative activities and puzzles. We played ¿Quién Es? y 20 Preguntas last week.

Library - *Regular Library news*: We have started a long-term research project in the library using the Oak Park Public Library's shared databases to conduct our research. We are using CultureGrams to research a country of the student's choice. If you are not familiar with these databases, take a look at the library's homework help page: <http://oppl.org/services/kids/homework-help> This incredible list of databases can be used by any D97 student without a library card while at school. From home, students will need to type in a library card number and PIN. This week we will review note taking skills- summarizing information from CultureGrams in our own words to use for a later narrative.

Reading Olympics: Congratulations to Mira A., Alani E., and Caelyn P. on their win of the extreme round of reading olympics. This team of three will join the rest of District 97 as well as other local schools at the Oak Park Public Library for the **Extreme Competition** on April 27th. A round of applause for all competing teams in the fall, spring, and extreme rounds. Thank you for making this event such a fun experience. Please email mmaneck@op97.org with any questions or concerns. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>.

Physical Education - February is Gymnastic Unit here at Holmes. The kids will be swinging, hanging, climbing, rolling, cartwheeling, somersaulting, and many other equilibrium building balancing acts. (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)

Reading/Literature

In Reading this week we will read non-fiction articles that relate to the American Revolution. We will also continue reading My Brother Sam Is Dead. This historical fiction novel takes place at the beginning of the American Revolution.

Writing

Students will be working on their classroom Shakespeare plays.

Math

In math this week, we will continue to work on plotting points in the coordinate plane and using rules to describe points on a line. Students will be able to use tables and graphs to show points which satisfy a particular rule. The unit assessment covering plane geometry will be next Monday, May 18.

Over the next few weeks, students will be working on the Million Dollar project. The objective of this project is to develop a plan to spend exactly \$1,000,000 in certain specified categories. Students will be required to track all amounts spent in a spreadsheet. At the end of the project, students will use their iPads to present their projects to the class. The Million Dollar project is due Tuesday, May 26. a copy of the project description can be found on the 5th grade wiki.

Science

This week, students are observing the various plants we have growing in various growing environments, including, sun, dark, under glass, and in a tower garden without soil. We will not have science on Friday this week due to the Transition Picnic.

Social Studies

In Social Studies we will continue to learn about events that led to the American Revolution. As we do this we will view them from the perspectives of Loyalists, Patriots, and Native Americans. This week we will examine the Boston Massacre using primary documents written by a colonist and a British soldier. We will also analyze four different artistic depictions of the event and decide what they tell us about their creators. Later in the week we will compare and contrast the famous poem, "Paul Revere's Ride" by Henry Longfellow to the events that actually happened.

Spelling/Word Study

Students will complete our Building Vocabulary with Root Words curriculum during their Reading/Literature block. We learn that the bases "scrib" and "script" mean "write" and that "dict" means "say," "speak," or "tell."

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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